Justice Denies Giving Lie Test In Heroin Case

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The prosecutor in the French-American heroin smuggling case yesterday termed "a lie" a claim by a Paris newspaper that he had given a lie-detector test to a French counter-espionage official who was indicted Monday by a federal grand jury in Newark, N.J.

U.S. Attorney Herbert J. Stern said in Newark that he has never met the official, Col. Paul Fournier, and that French authorities had rejected his request to interview Fournier during a visit to Paris early this month.

And, Stern said, "no American law enforcement agency had administered a lie-detector test" to Fournier.

The Paris newspaper, France-Soir, which has the largest circulation in France, asserted that Stern had given the polygraph test in April in Newark; that the test established Fournier's innocence; that "one cannot reject the hypothesis" that his accuser, Roger X. L. DeLouette, "was manipulated by the CIA," and that DeLouette was motivated by a desire to conceal the identity of the true boss of the smuggling operation.

DeLouette, indicted along with Fournier, pleaded guilty on Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Newark. He faces a mandatory prison sentence of bodian mercenaries in Laos,

Yesterday, Stern lifted the veil on a polygraph test the Justice Department gave DeLouette Oct. 4. All of the questions submitted by French authorities were asked, and the test indicated he answered them truthfully, Stern said.

This conclusion was supported, Stern said, by the machine's rejection of the "no" DeLouette gave to an additional question: Did a certain friend know of the smuggling conspiracy?

In an earlier polygraph test, on Sept. 21, which is part of the arraignment record, DeLouette said that Fournier masterminded a conspiracy to smuggle $12 million worth of heroin into Port Elizabeth, N.J., in a Volkswagen camper, and gave him a contact in the French consulate in New York City.

In court Tuesday, DeLouette, 48, further implicated Fournier, who, he said, had promised him $50,000 for delivering the heroin to a contact in New York—a delivery never made because a customs agent spotted the heroin in the VW, leading to De Louette's arrest in April.

DeLouette said that Fournier, a mystery figure with an office in a Paris building known as Les Invalides, is a supervisory agent of the Service de Documentation Exterieure et de Contre-Espionage (SDECE). Paris sources said Fournier heads recruiting for foreign operations of SDECE.

Claude Shaminades, a narcotics officer at the French Consulate in Manhattan, and other French police officials who attended a Sept. 14 meeting with Stern in Washington have accused DeLouette of lying about Fournier.

But Stern said the same authorities had agreed to prosecute Fournier if DeLouette would take and pass a polygraph test. In Paris, Investigating Magistrate Gabriel Roussel questioned Fournier for five hours Tuesday, but the colonel, proclaiming innocence, said it was about a personal matter.